



ANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019



THE NEED

IN SOUTH CAROLINA:

42%

of people live in a childcare desert, where there are more than three times as many children as licensed child care slots

53%

of children ages 3 and 4 are not enrolled in nursery school or preschool



IN ORANGEBURG COUNTY:

4,816

children under age 5

70.8%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

69%

of kindergartners are considered "not ready" for school

OUR MISSION

Getting Children Ready For School

OUR APPROACH



High quality programs and services for children and families



Intensive training, resources and support for childcare providers



Strategic partnerships and community education

OUR IMPACT

1917

number of children and adults served by ABC County First Steps in 2018-2019

JOIN US

We rely on a community of partners, donors, and volunteers – **people like you** – who believe in a brighter future for children and families in our community.

Orangeburg, SC 29115 | 803-987-4164 | www.orangeburgfirststeps.org

Data provided by:





OUR STORY

Orangeburg County First Steps continues to strive for excellence in serving children and families. It is our desire and goal to work collaboratively with the entire community to provide early education so that every child is healthy, safe and ready to enter kindergarten at age five. The board of directors and staff of Orangeburg County First Steps continue to build momentum by diversifying services necessary to see a greater impact.

Moving forward, the agency is looking forward to building a close knit early childhood community for continued implementation of quality services in Orangeburg County.

OUR GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Orangeburg County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

- Orangeburg County First Steps seeks to increase services for early identification of physical, emotional and educational disabilities.
- Orangeburg County First Steps seeks to improve the quality of the environment and educational services provided by the child development centers enrolled in the Quality Counts Program.
- Orangeburg County First Steps seeks to improve quality professional development opportunities in order to increase the number of qualified staff persons who work with children ages 0-5 in Orangeburg County.
- Orangeburg County First Steps seeks to serve as a community portal for connecting families of preschool children to services designed to strengthen families and promote optimal child development.

It has truly been a privilege to serve with a group of people who put children first in every decision that is made..

Jacqueline Jamison, Board Member





IMAGINATION LIBRARY



an evidence-based program

As the local affiliate of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, we provide free, high-quality books to children from birth until age five, no matter their family's income.

Children enrolled in our Imagination Library program receive one book per month by mail. Each title is selected by a panel of early childhood literacy experts, who are responsible for choosing books that meet the age-specific developmental needs of young children.

IMAGINATION LIBRARY BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

102

children served

840

books distributed

Because Orangeburg County First Steps secures the funds to cover the cost of books and shipping fees, books are free to children in Orangeburg County.

Join us by sponsoring a child for just \$30 a year.





COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN



an evidence-informed program

Developed by South Carolina First Steps – and identified as a promising state practice by the National Governor’s Association in 2005 – Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK) is a home visitation program pairing the families of rising kindergartners with their future teachers during the summer before school entry. Teachers complete six visits with each family, establishing strong connections during the summer that facilitate classroom learning throughout the year.

CTK BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

4

kindergarten teachers
trained as home visitors

41

children served

242

total home and school
visits





CHILD CARE QUALITY ENHANCEMENT



an evidence-based program

Many private child care centers strive to provide high quality care but lack the resources often available to publicly-funded early childhood programs. Our Child Care Quality Enhancement (QE) program aims to produce measurable improvements in the quality of care provided to young children.

Our services include:



Rigorous quality assessments



On-site technical assistance at least twice monthly



Funding for equipment and materials



Training and workforce development



Coordination with community partners

QE BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

4

child care providers served

104

number of TA visits provided

45

number of children 0-5 enrolled in provider classrooms

Early learning is the best gift I can give my child to change his world.

C. Carr, Parent



CHILD CARE TRAINING



an evidence-based program

High-quality child care hinges on high-quality professional development that meets the needs of the local child care workforce. Our training programs are certified through the SC Center for Child Care Career Development and include topics in the areas of nutrition, health and safety, curriculum, child guidance, professional development and program administration. Our 2018-2019 trainings included:

TRAINING TOPICS

Supporting A Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum
The Power of the Portfolios in Supporting the Early Learning Curriculum Pt. 1&2
Building Social Skills With Young Learners Pt. 1&2
Strategic Planning: A Tool for Program Administrators Pt. 1&2
Essential Elements of an Anti-Bias Teacher Pt. 1&2

TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

168

total training attendance

168

child care teachers and
directors served

9

number of training
sessions offered

“ Training provided by Orangeburg County First Steps has taught me how to implement innovative strategies in my early childhood classroom.

K. Parker



READING ROCKS



an evidence-informed program

Reading Rocks is a summer home visitation program created and implemented by Orangeburg County First Steps. The program consists of 5 home visits and 1 early exposure school tour for children ages 3-4 years old. Reading Rocks is designed to provide exposure of early literacy concepts to 3-4 year olds by increasing interactive learning in the home environment, learning through technology, participation in Dolly Parton Imagination Library, and literacy night hosted by Orangeburg County First Steps. Age-appropriate lesson plans integrating the Early Learning Standards is the foundation of the Reading Rocks Program. The duration for each visit is no more than 60 minutes and provides the parents with hands on experience with how they can help their child get ready for school as they are required to be actively involved in each visit. The most unique feature of this program is the use of tablets to administer lessons to program participants.

READING ROCKS BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

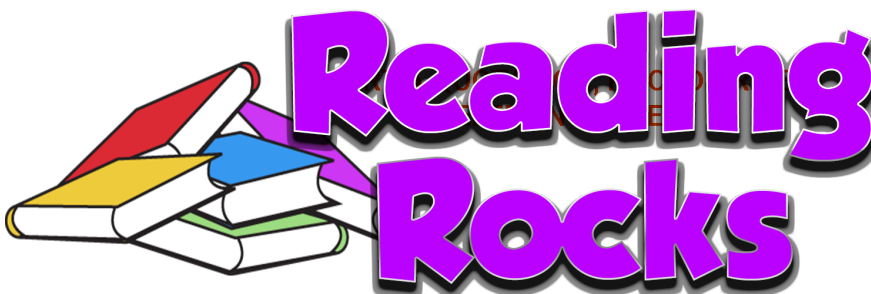
10

families served

60

Total home and
school visits

ORANGEBURG COUNTY FIRST STEPS





CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIPS



an evidence-based program

Access to quality child care is essential for children while away from their primary caregivers. Yet, of those families income-eligible for child care assistance in South Carolina, only a small fraction receive it due to lack of funds. In the absence of nurturing and consistently available family, friends or neighbors, parents are faced with few - or no – affordable care options.

Orangeburg County First Steps offers scholarships to families enrolled in programs offered by the agency, as well as income-eligible children whose parents work or attend school on a full time basis.

SCHOLARSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

12

number of children
served

5

number of providers
served

12

number of
developmental
screenings provided

**100% of the money paid to child care
providers goes back into our local economy to
benefit the citizens of Orangeburg County.**



PARENTING PROGRAM



an evidence-based program

Early Steps to School Success is a home visitation program designed to build strong communities, thriving families and children who are healthy, safe and ready to succeed.

Services Include: Personal visits from a parent educator twice monthly, screenings and assessments, monthly group meetings and connections to outside resources.

Early Steps to School Success 2018-2019

41

families served

681

total home visits





TRAINING PROGRAM



an evidence-informed program

Through community partnerships, Orangeburg County First Steps seeks to provide additional training opportunities to professionals who seek to increase their knowledge and practices in successfully preparing children for school.

Director's Network for Education Success by the Numbers 2018-2019

59

total number of
training participants

3

number of training
sessions offered





COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Addressing the needs of young children is a shared endeavor. In addition to providing services to families and support for child care providers, Orangeburg County First Steps mobilizes partners and community members to ensure all children in Orangeburg County begin school ready to succeed. We serve as a:

LOCAL PORTAL

connecting preschool children and
their families to services

CONVENER

of community stakeholders to develop an effective
and comprehensive early childhood system

CHAMPION

of the importance of school
readiness to our children's future

OUR PARTNERSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

189

Total Served

35

Providers Served





OUR SUPPORTERS

Through partnerships and collaborations, as well as financial support from grants and contributions, Orangeburg County First Steps leverages state dollars to enhance and expand services to children and families.

FUNDING SUPPORT

Save the Children \$41,480.00

United Way of the Midlands \$10,000.00

Orangeburg Consolidated School District 5 \$2,200.00

Center for Childcare Career Development \$2,000.00

Orangeburg Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. \$500.00

IN-KIND SUPPORT

Orangeburg Consolidated School Districts 4 and 5

South Carolina Department of Social Services

Kaplan Early Learning Company

Williams Chapel A.M.E. Church

JOIN US

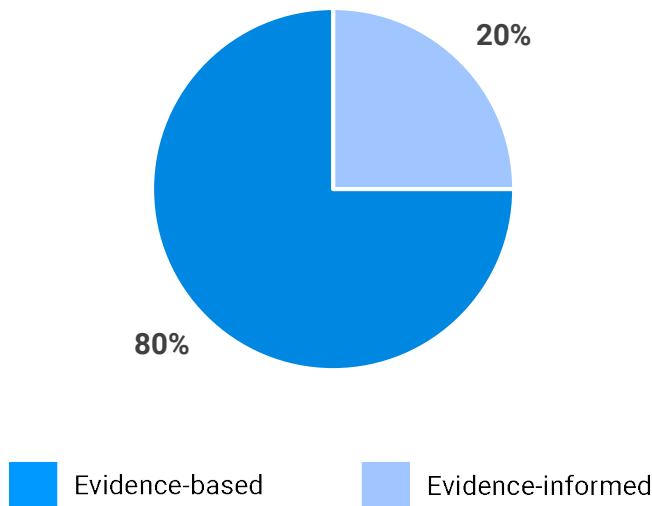
For more information on partnership opportunities, visit our website at
www.orangeburgfirststeps.org



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

OUR INVESTMENT IN QUALITY

Expenditures of State Funds by Program Type



ESTIMATION OF COST SAVINGS

Since inception, Orangeburg County First Steps has leveraged **\$1,756,627.44** from sources outside of state government.

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES BY STRATEGY

	State Funding	Federal Funding	Private Funding	In-Kind Contributions	Total
Early Steps to School Success	\$64,520	\$0	\$36,813	\$39,856	\$141,189
Child Care Quality Enhancement	\$72,786	\$0	\$531	\$3,249	\$76,566
Child Care Training	\$56,800	\$0	\$2,000	\$153	\$58,956
Imagination Library	\$1,317	\$0	\$519	\$0	\$1,836
Countdown to Kindergarten & Reading Rocks	\$6,941	\$0	\$9,103	\$76	\$16,121
Scholarship Initiative	\$41,512	\$0	\$0	\$3,500	\$45,012
Partnerships & Community Education	\$36,6995	\$1,095	\$6,034	\$137	\$44,261
Administrative Support	\$38,268	\$0	\$0	\$137	\$38,404
Total Expenses	\$319,139	\$1,095	\$55,000	\$47,111	\$422,345



LEADERSHIP

Board of Directors

Marie Artis
Tyneshia Bryant
Gwendolyn Breeland
Kimberlei Davis, Vice-Chair
Brian Gotses
Matthew Henderson
Bertie Howard
Jacqueline Jamison
Dr. Audrey McCrary Quarles, Committee Chair
Tonya Wells, Committee Chair/Secretary
Antron Williams
Luvenia Williams
Dr. Reginald Williams, Chairman

STAFF

LaMyra Sanders, Executive Director
Kathy Jenkins, Book Keeper/Program Analyst
Destiny Johnson, Community Ambassador/Administrative Assistant
Tuisha Glover, Parent Educator
Yvette Perryman-Brown, Parent Educator
Dr. Anthony Broughton, Technical Assistant/Trainer

CONTACT US

PO Box 451 Orangeburg, SC 29116 | 803-987-4164 | www.orangeburgfirststeps.org

